

Living

Mural celebrates school's first ten years



Above, Eneida Lopez, left, a fifth grader, and Tessa Contreras, a fourth grader, work on details of a sports scene. At left, fifth grader Sarah Franklin paints in the design on a folkloric dancer's dress.

*Photos by
Kurt Ellison*

Students at Alianza Elementary School are celebrating the school's 10th anniversary with a number of activities — one of which will be shared with local residents for years to come.

Under the direction of Spectra Artist Carmen Leon, fourth and fifth graders have painted a mural on the side of the school gymnasium that is visible from Arthur Road.

The mural is more than 90 feet long and 10¾ feet high.

Painting started April 24, and is in the final stages. Leon said it will be completed by the time school lets out for the summer, the second week in June.

Some art in public places throughout the county has become the center of con-

trovery in recent weeks. Not so with the Alianza mural. In fact, one of the themes of the giant mural is conflict resolution. Other portions depict playground play and folkloric dancing.

The mural was a big undertaking — such projects require a lot of planning, preparation and mutual agreement on design. An added benefit to children who participated in the development of the mural is they had the opportunity to work together on a school community project and to see the value of cooperating and sharing ideas and chores.

And as with any production, participants are seeing the result of their joint project come to life and to be enjoyed by other students, school personnel and neighbors.



Carmen Leon, left, discusses the mural with, from left, Rachel Vander V, a fifth grader; Michelle Baker and Teague Schneider, both fourth graders.